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CONTAINS SENSITIVE  
COMPARTMENTED INFORMATION

February 10, 1956

P.P.S.

Rod called me today and mentioned that he had been discussing several projects having to do with data reduction. One was the stereoscope problem, now covered in the foregoing write-up. Another was the rectifier situation. I was interested in hearing that you are now once again considering rectification of the charting camera sweeps out to 60 degrees. Still another was rectification of the larger pictures with the required rectifier designed and built from scratch. Then, there was another which we could not even double-talk on, but which involves lenses. I believe I know what is involved, however.

On all these, except the desk stereoscope, Rod thought that Perkin-Elmer might serve as a prime contractor, and that Spica might contribute optical design and other services. Even the desk stereoscope might be so handled, as mentioned on page 6 of the above write-up. The cost to the government would be higher, but you might well have greater assurance of an early delivery.

I told Rod that while we had to withdraw from all the above type projects except the stereoscope because of the time factor, we would be very interested in doing the optical design work as a sub, quite like the current arrangement on preceding systems. Our IBM machinery is all in operation, going well, and I believe this is one department where we are faster than anyone else, and I believe also we can deliver the quality required.

I still prefer to handle the stereoscope problem directly, however, since I have spent quite a lot of time thinking through the problem, and have worked a great deal on related problems. I am afraid if another group were to be brought into it now, we should only be spending time in conference work on what we already know, and there would be an initial slow-down at the same time cost to the government would be increased. One point on the matter, however, is still the one of advanced payments. Spica cannot operate without such help, since our operating capital is pretty much required to handle current AF contracts already on our books. I do not wish to finance by selling any part of Spica to some one else, preferring to be small and free of external controls. Hence, the advance payments or near equivalent thereto are almost mandatory. I thought these comments might be timely, and hence have taken the liberty to add these to the foregoing proposal.

Sincerely yours,

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Baker